

SENATE RESOLUTION 232

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ms. Thelma Brooks Nevils Reed on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Thelma Reed celebrated her ninetieth birthday on January 31<sup>st</sup>, a milestone commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Levi William Brooks and Kitty Jaynes Brooks, Ms. Reed was born and raised in Claiborne County; she has lived for the past fifty-nine years in the house that she and her late husband, George, built in 1949 on a site only three miles from where she was born; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Reed attended the Dogwood School and Soldiers Memorial School before graduating with highest honors from Draughan Business College in 1943, having received her highest marks in all of her classes in college; and

WHEREAS, Thelma Reed is a highly respected member of the Claiborne County community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Reed opened the Tazewell Cash Grocery in 1936 with her aunts, Martha G. Jaynes and Hattie B. Jaynes; the store had the distinction of being the first business in Claiborne County entirely owned, operated, and managed by women and was one of only two grocery stores in the county with an in-house butcher at the time. Ms. Reed acted as the manager and buyer for the pioneering store; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, Thelma Reed was joined in marriage with her first husband, George Howard Nevils, and the couple's blessed union produced one son, William Howard Paul Nevils; she worked with closely with her husband, serving as the secretary and office manager

of his law practice for twenty-three years, in addition to serving as his secretary at the Tennessee General Assembly during Mr. Nevils's tenure as a State Representative; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Reed married her second husband, Dr. Frederick Wendel Reed, in 1964. She served as the office manager of his medical practice for fourteen years, in which position she supervised the design, bidding process, and building of Reed Medical Clinic at New Tazewell; the couple were united in marriage until Dr. Reed's death in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Thelma Reed's ninetieth birthday was commemorated with a special gift from her family, a quilt entitled "Jubilee," with one side containing photographs of Ms. Reed; her parents; grandparents; her favorite aunt, Martha Geneva Jaynes; her favorite uncle, James Henry Jaynes; her son and his wife; her grandchildren and their spouses; her great-grandchildren; and her beloved tuxedo cat, Susie. The other side of the quilt contains nineteen generations of her paternal Brooks genealogy, dating back 530 years, and a large block depicting the Nevils Family Coat of Arms which was posthumously granted to her first husband in 1979 through the Letter Patent by the College of Arms in London; and

WHEREAS, as Ms. Reed enters her tenth decade, she is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, such as First Families of Tennessee, of which she is a charter member, and the Civil War Families of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Thelma Reed is also an enthusiastic writer who keeps a daily diary, and at the age of eighty-seven, wrote "A General Survey of the Tazewell Bar, 1789-1963" for *The People's History of Claiborne County, Tennessee, 1801-2005*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Reed continues to enjoy reading, solving puzzles, tending to her garden, and cooking delicious dishes which are remembered and envied by all who taste them; and

WHEREAS, Thelma Reed evinces great faith as a communicant of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Middleboro, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Reed is deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; she celebrated her birthday with her son, William Howard Paul Nevils; her grandchildren, Andrew Paul Nicholas Nevils and his wife, Amber Leslie Geels Nevils; Philippa Sarah Nevils Murphy and her husband, Wayne Chad

Murphy; and Melanie Clare Nevils Pond and her husband, Jeremy Rollin Pond; and her great-grandchildren, Evan Alexander Nevils, Brennan Chad Murphy, Keegan Levi Pond, and Tatum Allison Pond; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Thelma Brooks Nevils Reed on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.